

Hip dysplasia - what is this disease ?

Abnormal development of hip – not present at birth!

- Very common orthopaedic disease of dogs
- Polygenic multifactorial in origin which is why it is difficult to eradicate hip dysplasia by selective breeding
- Heritability 0.2 to 0.6

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Hip dysplasia - what is this disease ?

Hip dysplasia results in

- Increased hip laxity leading to subluxation (loose hips)
- Later develops arthritis

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Hip dysplasia (HD)

Normal hips



Dysplastic hips **severly HD**



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Hip dysplasia - clinical signs

- May be radiologically abnormal but show no clinical signs
- Gait abnormalities
- Weakness in the hind quarters
- Arthritis may be crippling in old age

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Hip dysplasia – diagnosis

- Clinical examination by your vet
- Radiographs (x-rays)
 - These have to be accurately positioned
 - Anaesthesia or heavy sedation is thus required.
 - Usually take extended and flexed hip views



Hip dysplasia

Extended view



Flexed view



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Hip dysplasia

Subluxation changes – loose hips

Normal hip



Loose hip



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Hip dysplasia

Degenerative changes – arthritis

Normal hip



Arthritic hip



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Hip dysplasia – breeding

Dogs should be certified free of hip dysplasia before breeding with them

- Take dog to your vet (don't forget registration papers)
- Your dog needs to be positively identified with a microchip or tattoo number
- You will have to sign a declaration form
- The vet will send the radiographs (x-rays) to a veterinary radiologist (Raad van Beheer in Amsterdam for NL)
- He/she will then issue a hip dysplasia certificate with the dog's hip grading

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Hip dysplasia – treatment

- **Discuss with your vet**
- **Mild cases get medical management**
- **Severe cases require surgery which may be very expensive**



Hip dysplasia - conclusion

- **Buy puppies from hip dysplasia free parents and grandparents**
- **Ensure you only breed with dogs free of hip dysplasia**
- **Have radiographs (x-rays) taken before breeding**

